DELL

No. 101

THE WINGS OF EAGLES

He put wings on the Navy and sailed it right into the sky.

This motion picture is dedicated to the men who brought Air Power to the United States Navy. One such man was Commander Frank "Spig" Wead, a man unafraid, who thrived on danger and looked on trouble as a friend . . .

It was typical of Spig Wead to fly a plane when he'd never flown a plane before . . .

To fling a challenge at the United States Army in the very moment of its triumph...

To fight for his life with dogged courage when no one else even dared to hope . . .

This was Spig Wead, who did things never done before—and liked it that way!

M-G-M Presents in METROCOLOR

JOHN WAYNE
DAN DAILEY
MAUREEN O'HARA

in

THE WINGS OF EAGLES

Co-Starring

WARD BOND

Screen Play by

FRANK FENTON and WILLIAM WISTER HAINES

Based on the Life and Writings of
COMMANDER FRANK W. "SPIG" WEAD

Directed by JOHN FORD

Produced by CHARLES SCHNEE

A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

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the WINGS of EAGLES

THE SAME ANSWER, MR. WEAD...WHEN YOUR INSTRUCTOR THINKS YOU'RE READY!— ATTENTION!... CLASS DISMISSED!

HEY, SPIG! LET'S GO! YOU PROMISED MINNIE WE'D TAKE HER TO THE ADMIRAL'S TEA!
YOU TAKE HER, JOHNNY! I WANT TO SEE WHAT THE ARMY'S DOING AROUND MY PLANE!

WE HEARD ABOUT YOU WEB-FOOTED BIRDMEN AND CAME DOWN TO SEE THESE THINGS FOR OURSELVES! CAN ANYBODY GET THIS CRATE UP IN THE AIR?
JUMP IN AND FIND OUT, ARMY! JUST DON'T TRIP OVER YOUR SPURS!
BUT, SPIG!... THE ADMIRAL'S TEA!...

CRANK HER UP, CARSON!
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND! YOU'VE NEVER BEEN AT THE CONTROLS BEFORE!

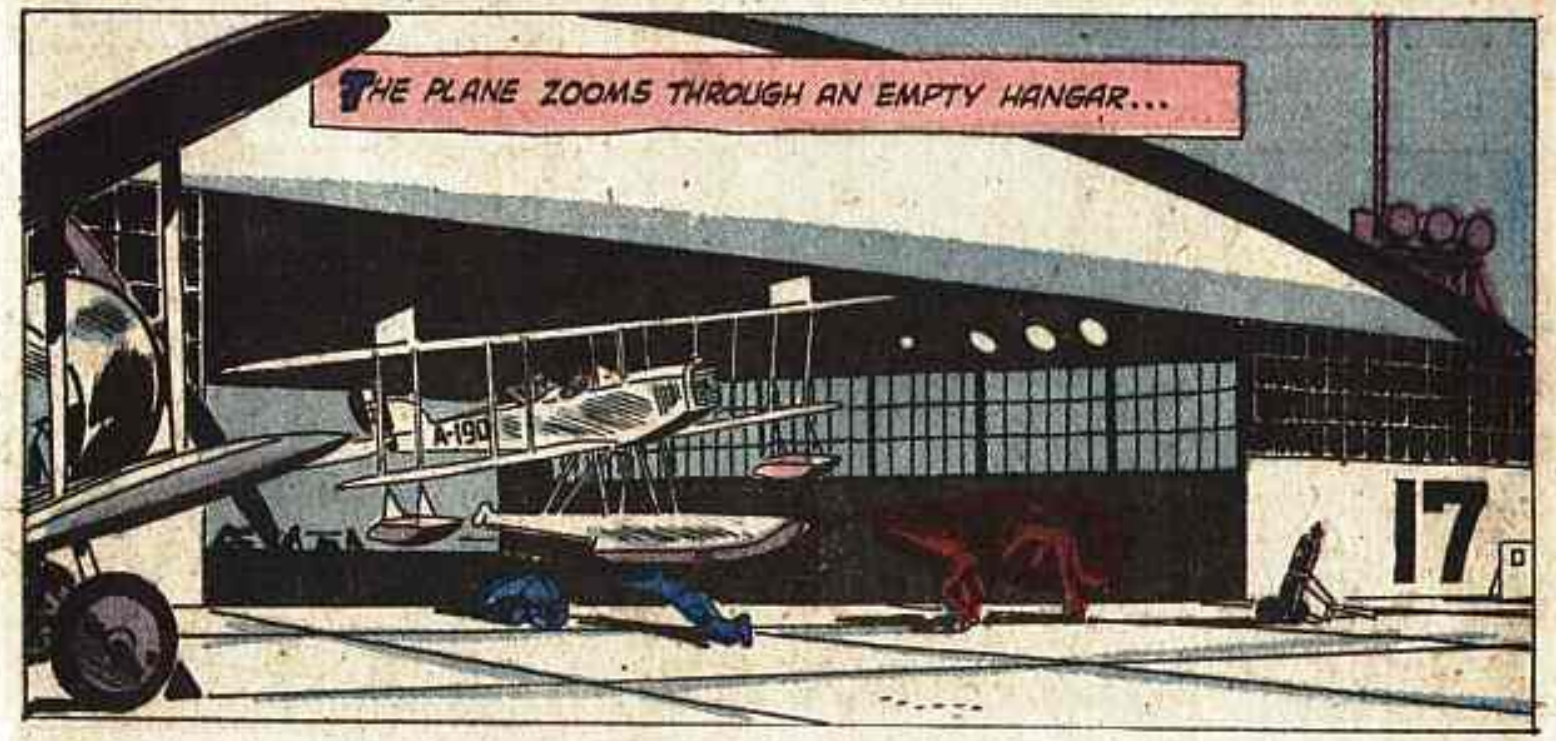
...IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, YOU'LL GET BUSTED OUT OF THE NAVY!— THAT'S IF YOU DON'T KILL YOURSELF!
STOP WORRYING! I CAN ALWAYS JOIN THE ARMY!... NOW CRANK HER UP!

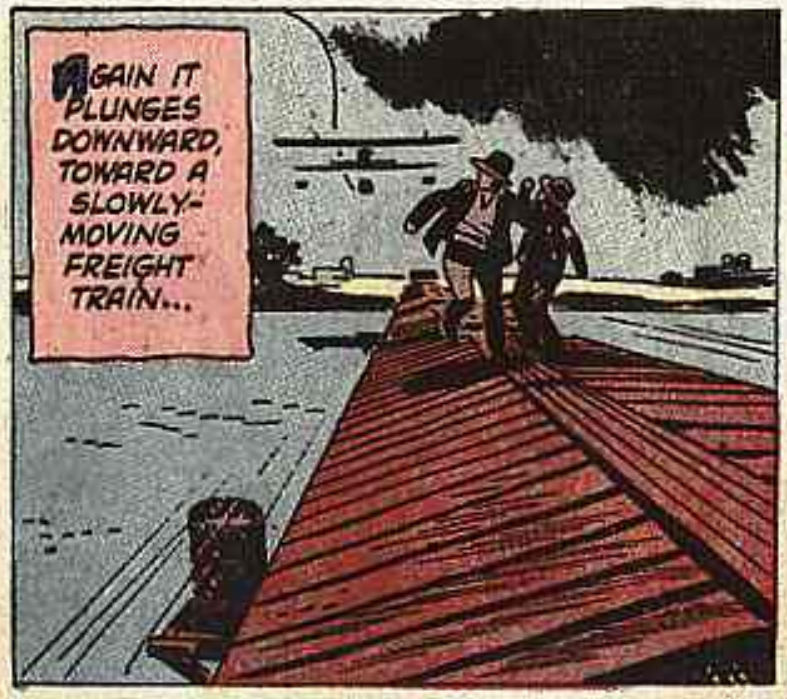
LOOK AT THAT JUMPY TAKE-OFF! MAYBE HE GOT IT UP... BUT HE'LL NEVER GET IT DOWN IN ONE PIECE! BETTER START THE CRASH BOAT, CARSON!
YES, SIR!
A-190

HAVE YOU EVER SOLOED BEFORE?
NO! WHY? CAN'T YOU SWIM?

THAT GUY CAN FLY EVERY WAY BUT STRAIGHT! LOOK! HE'S HEADING INLAND!
YEAH! IN A SEAPLANE!!

HOLD ON, CAPTAIN HAZARD! WE'RE GOING DOWN!!
A-190


THE PLANE ZOOMS THROUGH AN EMPTY HANGAR...
A-190


AGAIN IT PLUNGES DOWNWARD, TOWARD A SLOWLY-MOVING FREIGHT TRAIN...

THEN STAGGERS UPWARD, SKIMMING THE TOPS OF THE FREIGHT CARS...

NEXT, THE ZOOMING PLANE TURNS THE ADMIRAL'S TEA PARTY INTO CHAOS...

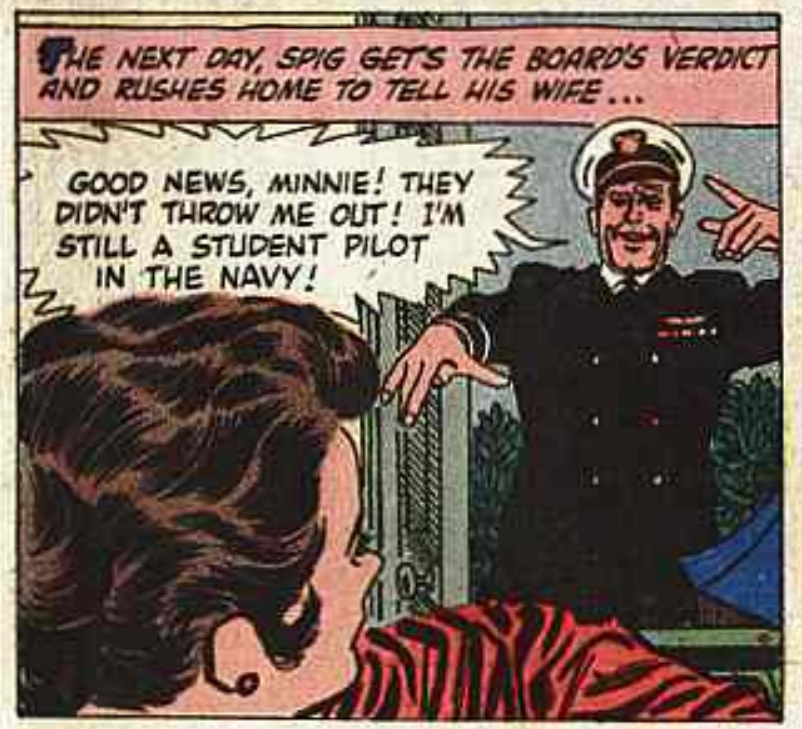
IT RIPS THROUGH THE TREES, SHEARING OFF THE WINGS...

AND GEYSERS NOSE FIRST INTO THE ADMIRAL'S SWIMMING POOL...

LATER THAT DAY, SPIG IS CALLED BEFORE COMMANDER TRAVIS AND TWO STAFF OFFICERS, WHILE ADMIRAL MOFFETT SITS BY, OBSERVING...
NOW THAT THE BOARD HAS HEARD THE REPORT ON THIS MORNING'S EPISODE, MR. WEAD--DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT IN YOUR OWN BEHALF?
YES, SIR!
YEOMAN! RECORD THIS!

IT'S JUST THIS, SIR! FLYING THAT PLANE THE WAY I DID THIS MORNING WASN'T JUST A WILD, SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT STUNT!...

IT WAS JUST MY WAY OF PROTESTING AGAINST OUR PRESENT AIR FORCE TRAINING!--OR RATHER, LACK OF TRAINING!... THAT'S ALL, SIR!


THE NEXT DAY, SPIG GETS THE BOARD'S VERDICT AND RUSHES HOME TO TELL HIS WIFE...
GOOD NEWS, MINNIE! THEY DIDN'T THROW ME OUT! I'M STILL A STUDENT PILOT IN THE NAVY!

I'M GLAD FOR YOUR SAKE, SPIG! BUT I'LL CONFESS I WAS HOPING THEY WOULD BOUNCE YOU OUT! THEN YOU'D BELONG TO ME...INSTEAD OF THE NAVY AND THE SKY!

SOMEDAY THE NAVY WILL FILL THE SKY WITH PLANES...AND I'LL BE UP THERE WITH THEM!
WHILE I'LL BE DOWN HERE ALONE, WONDERING IF YOU'RE COMING BACK ALIVE!

TIME PASSES, AND SPIG IS SENT TO CORONADO, CALIFORNIA. THEN ONE DAY...
NEW ORDERS, MINNIE! WE'RE GOING TO WASHINGTON, D. C.!

I'M NOT GOING, SPIG!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN-- YOU'RE NOT GOING?

JUST THAT, SPIG! I'M TIRED OF MOVING FROM BASE TO BASE... AND OF BEING ALONE! YOU LIVE YOUR REAL LIFE UP IN THE SKY! YOU DON'T NEED ME!

AND SO, SADLY, SPIG GOES TO WASHINGTON ALONE...

NOT LONG AFTER HE REPORTS FOR HIS WASHINGTON DUTY, SPIG'S WORK BRINGS RESULTS...
IS THIS ON THE LEVEL, SPIG? AND WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?
YES -- IT'S ON THE LEVEL! AND THE IDEA IS TO ATTRACT PUBLIC INTEREST!

LOOK!... THE NAVY NEEDS AIRCRAFT CARRIERS! TO GET THEM, WE NEED MONEY FROM CONGRESS! AND TO GET MONEY FROM CONGRESS, WE NEED THE PUBLIC'S SUPPORT!
NAVY TO RACE ARMY IN ROUND THE WORLD HOP!!

THE ARMY'S PLANNING A ROUND-THE-WORLD FLIGHT! ADMIRAL MOFFETT WANTED SOMETHING AT LEAST THAT BIG AND EXCITING TO HIT THE HEADLINES FOR THE NAVY! -- WELL... HERE IT IS!

SUDDENLY...
WEAD! DID YOU ANNOUNCE THIS?
YES, SIR!

AND YOU LIKE IT?
YES, SIR! WAR AND FOOTBALL DRAW MORE PEOPLE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE COUNTRY! NOW WE'VE GOT AN ARMY-NAVY RACE 'ROUND THE WORLD! THE WHOLE COUNTRY WILL BE SITTING IN ON IT!

CONGRESS IS SITTING IN ON IT! YOU ANNOUNCED THE RACE WITHOUT OFFICIAL APPROVAL, WEAD! THEY'RE HOLDING A SPECIAL HEARING TOMORROW -- FOR YOU AND ME!

THAT NIGHT, THE ARMY IS CELEBRATING THEIR PROPOSED ROUND-THE-WORLD FLIGHT... WHEN SUDDENLY, THEY HAVE UNEXPECTED GUESTS...

WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE! THE *NAVY!*... THE WEB-FOOTED BIRDMEN WHO WANT TO RACE US-- *IF* THEY CAN FIND ANYTHING TO FLY!

WE DON'T NEED MUCH MORE THAN A KITE TO BEAT ***YOU,*** CAPTAIN HAZARD!

CAPTAIN HAZARD PICKS UP THE CAKE AIRPLANE...

WELL, IF I MAY MAKE A SUGGESTION... WHY DON'T YOU FLY ***THIS?***

BUT SPIG IS NOT TO BE OUTDONE...

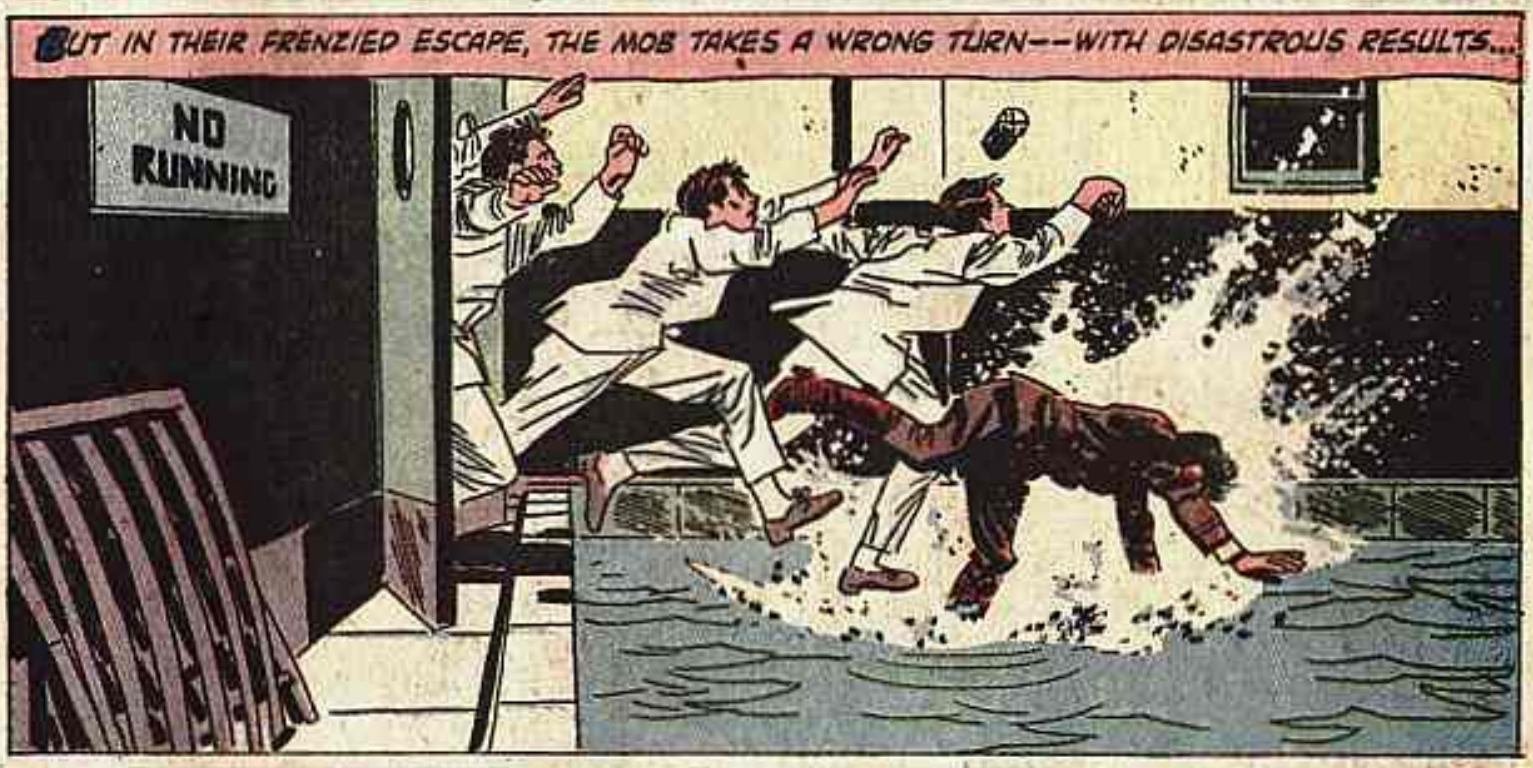
I'D BE HAPPY TO... IF YOU'LL TAKE ***THIS!***

AND THE FIGHT IS ON!--THE OLD, OLD BATTLE BETWEEN THE ARMY AND NAVY...

POLICE! CALL THE POLICE! THEY'RE WRECKING THE PLACE!!

MINUTES LATER...
THE COPS!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

THIS WAY! THROUGH THE KITCHEN!


BUT IN THEIR FRENZIED ESCAPE, THE MOB TAKES A WRONG TURN--WITH DISASTROUS RESULTS...
NO RUNNING

THE NEXT DAY, NEWS IS BAD AND THE FUTURE OF NAVAL AVIATION LOOKS DARK AGAIN...
WEAD, THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SAID "NO" TO THE ARMY-NAVY RACE! WE'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO WIN THE PUBLIC!
I EXPECTED THAT, SIR! AND I'VE GOT ANOTHER IDEA...

THE INTERNATIONAL SEAPLANE RACES! THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER WON THEM OR THE SCHNEIDER CUP THAT GOES WITH WINNING! HOW ABOUT IT?
GO AHEAD AND TRY! CONSIDER YOURSELF CAPTAIN OF THE TEAM, WEAD, AND --GOOD LUCK!

THE NAVY DOES WIN THE SCHNEIDER CUP, AND THIS TIME IT IS THE ARMY'S TURN TO BARGE IN ON A CELEBRATION PARTY...

SCHNEIDER CUP TEA
THE WINNE

WHY, I DECLARE— IT'S CAPTAIN HAZARD! DID YOU COME TO CONGRATULATE US, CAPTAIN?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DID! I CAME TO GIVE YOU A CUP!

AND HERE IT IS!

THIS TIME, THE POLICE ARRIVE AND STOP THE BATTLE BEFORE THE FIGHTERS CAN FLEE...

BUT THE SCHNEIDER CUP IS NOT ENOUGH FOR SPIG. THE NAVY STILL IS WITHOUT IT'S AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, AND SPIG'S MIND GROPES FOR IDEAS...

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU AND I COULD KEEP ONE OF THESE PLANES IN THE SKY, JOHNNY?

TILL WE GET TO WHEREVER WE'RE GOING!

BUT WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE! WE'RE GOING TO SET AN ENDURANCE RECORD--YOU AND ME AND THE NAVY... THAT'S IF ADMIRAL MOFFETT SAYS "YES"!

THE ADMIRAL DOES SAY "YES" TO THE ENDURANCE TEST FLIGHT, AND SOON...
SPIG!--YOU KNOW WHAT THIS TEST AMOUNTS TO... HOW MUCH MEN CAN TAKE! JUST REMEMBER THIS!... I'D RATHER HAVE YOU AND PRICE ALIVE THAN SET A RECORD, NO MATTER WHAT'S AT STAKE!
IF JOHNNY AND I CAN WORK THAT SWITCH AND CHANGE PLACES IN THE AIR, YOU'LL HAVE US AND THE RECORD, TOO, SIR!
SHINING IN THE EXPLOSION OF FLASH BULBS AND THE GLARE OF FLOODLIGHTS, THE BIG CURTISS SEA SCOUT TAKES FLIGHT...

AT DAWN, THE PLANE IS SAILING SMOOTHLY, HIGH ABOVE THE SEA...

WAKE UP, SPIG!

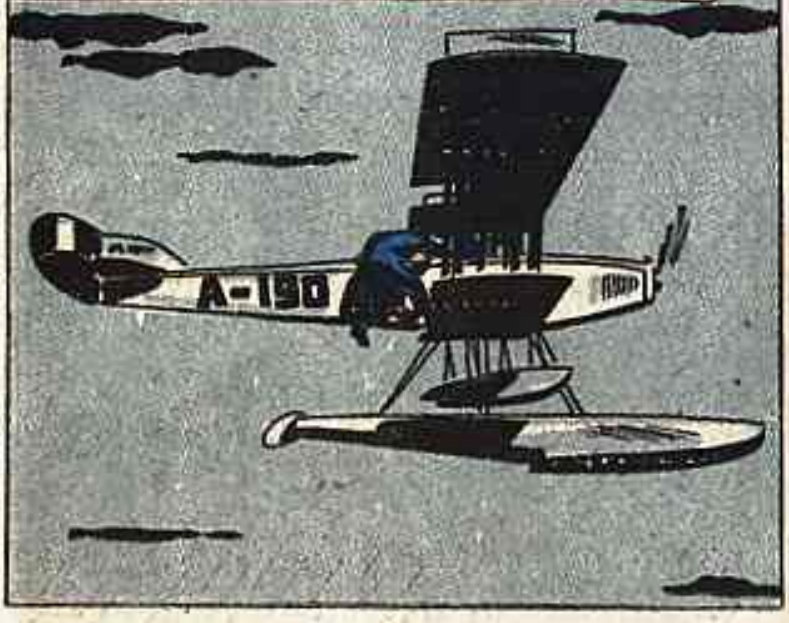
HOW DO WE STAND, JOHNNY?

EXACTLY HALF THE GAS IS LEFT! WE'RE BEHIND TIME ON ACCOUNT OF THE BIG GAS LOAD! BUT SHE'S LIGHTER NOW!

THE RECORD'S UP TO YOU NOW, SPIG... IF YOUR SWITCH PLAN WORKS! I CAN'T KEEP MY EYES OPEN MUCH LONGER!

OKAY! LET'S TRY THE SWITCH NOW!

SPIG CRAWLS ALONG THE FUSELAGE...

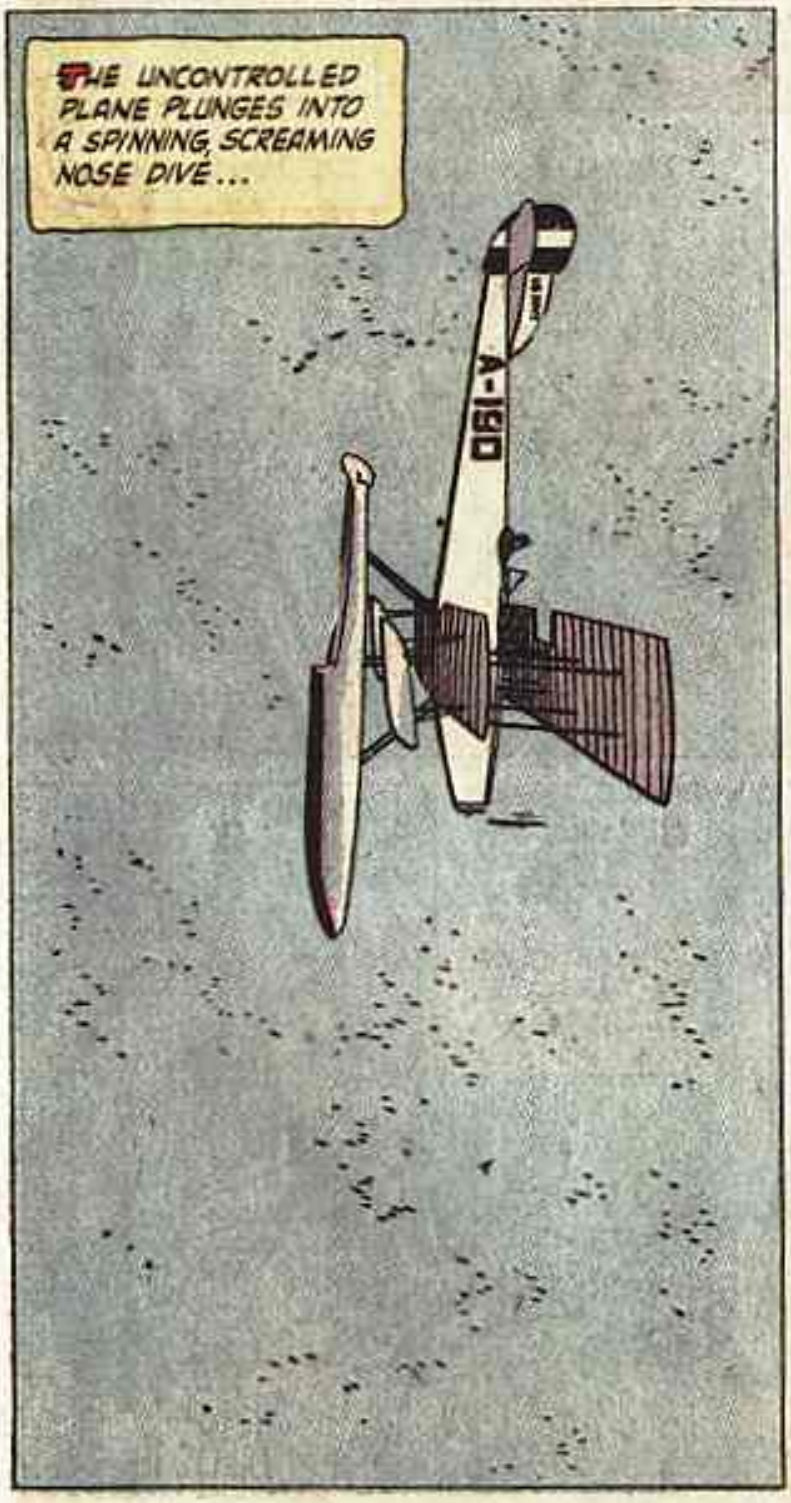


...AND INTO THE FRONT COCKPIT...

SO FAR, SO GOOD!

HANG ON, JOHNNY! I'VE GOT TO PUSH THE STICK FORWARD TO GET ONE FOOT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RUDDER BAR!

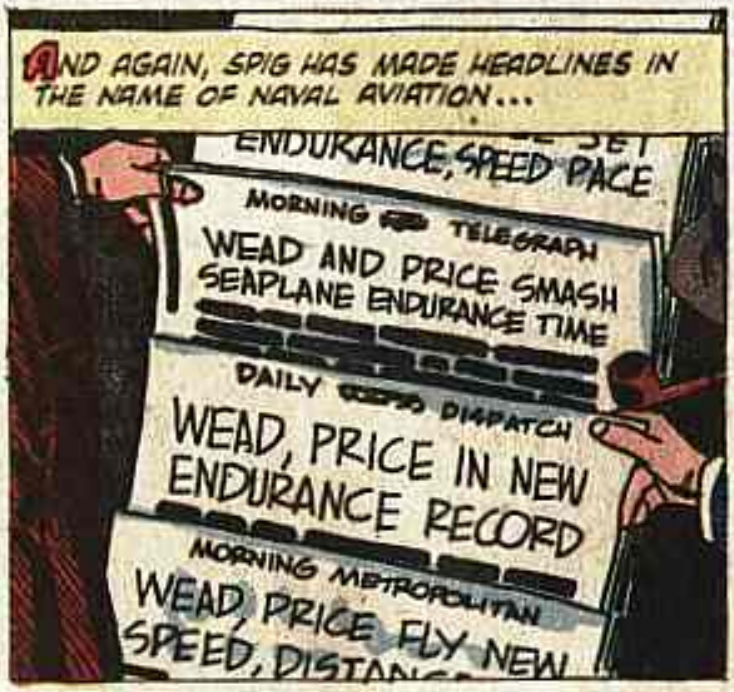
THIS IS THE CRITICAL MOMENT! FOR WHEN SPIG PUSHES THE STICK FORWARD, THE PLANE TILTS DOWNWARD...


THE UNCONTROLLED PLANE PLUNGES INTO A SPINNING, SCREAMING NOSE DIVE...
A-180

SPIG FIGHTS THE CONTROLS...

...AND PULLS THE PLANE OUT OF THE DIVE, JUST IN TIME...

I TOLD YOU IT'D WORK! GO TO SLEEP NOW, JOHNNY! YOU'LL WAKE UP FAMOUS!
I'LL BE SATISFIED JUST TO WAKE UP!


AND AGAIN, SPIG HAS MADE HEADLINES IN THE NAME OF NAVAL AVIATION...
ENDURANCE, SPEED PACE
MORNING TELEGRAPH
WEAD AND PRICE SMASH SEAPLANE ENDURANCE TIME
DAILY DISPATCH
WEAD, PRICE IN NEW ENDURANCE RECORD
MORNING METROPOLITAN
WEAD, PRICE FLY NEW SPEED, DISTANC

AND NOT LONG AFTERWARDS COME THE BEST HEADLINES OF ALL...
JOHNNY! THEY DID IT! THEY'RE GIVING THE NAVY TWO BIG CARRIERS--THE LEXINGTON AND THE SARATOGA!

AND NOW WHAT, SPIG? WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
TO THE OLD LANGLEY AS PILOTS! WHEN WE HIT THE LEXINGTON OR THE SARATOGA, WE WANT TO KNOW ALL THE LANGLEY CAN TEACH US ABOUT CARRIERS!

BUT SOON THE TRAINING PERIOD ON THE LANGLEY IS OVER, AND SPIG RETURNS TO THE HOUSE, IN CORONADO...
I'VE COME HOME, MINNIE!
SPIG!... OH, SPIG! I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO AWAY ALONE AGAIN!

SUDDENLY, THE TELEPHONE RINGS...
HELLO? WHAT IS IT, JOHNNY? ORDERS CAME FOR ME? OPEN THEM UP AND READ 'EM TO ME!

YOU'RE THE NEW SKIPPER OF A FIGHTING SQUADRON, SPIG! YOU'VE SET ANOTHER RECORD... THE YOUNGEST SQUADRON COMMANDER IN NAVAL HISTORY! --CONGRATULATIONS!

THAT NIGHT, A SOUND WAKENS SPIG AND HE RUSHES INTO THE UPSTAIRS HALL...

IN THE DARKNESS, HE PLUNGES DOWN THE STAIRS...

THE CRASH OF HIS FALL WAKENS MINNIE...
YOU'D BETTER CALL THE NAVAL HOSPITAL, MINNIE! I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING!

A SHORT TIME LATER, AT THE NAVAL HOSPITAL...
SO MY NECK'S BROKEN! WHAT ARE THE ODDS AGAINST MY STAYING ALIVE?
IF I OPERATE RIGHT NOW, I'D SAY ABOUT FOUR TO ONE!

THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, CAPTAIN SPEAR? LET'S GO!

LATER, AFTER THE OPERATION...
CARSON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M YOUR NEW NURSE, BOY! I'M GOIN' TO SEE YOU THROUGH THIS LITTLE TROUBLE!

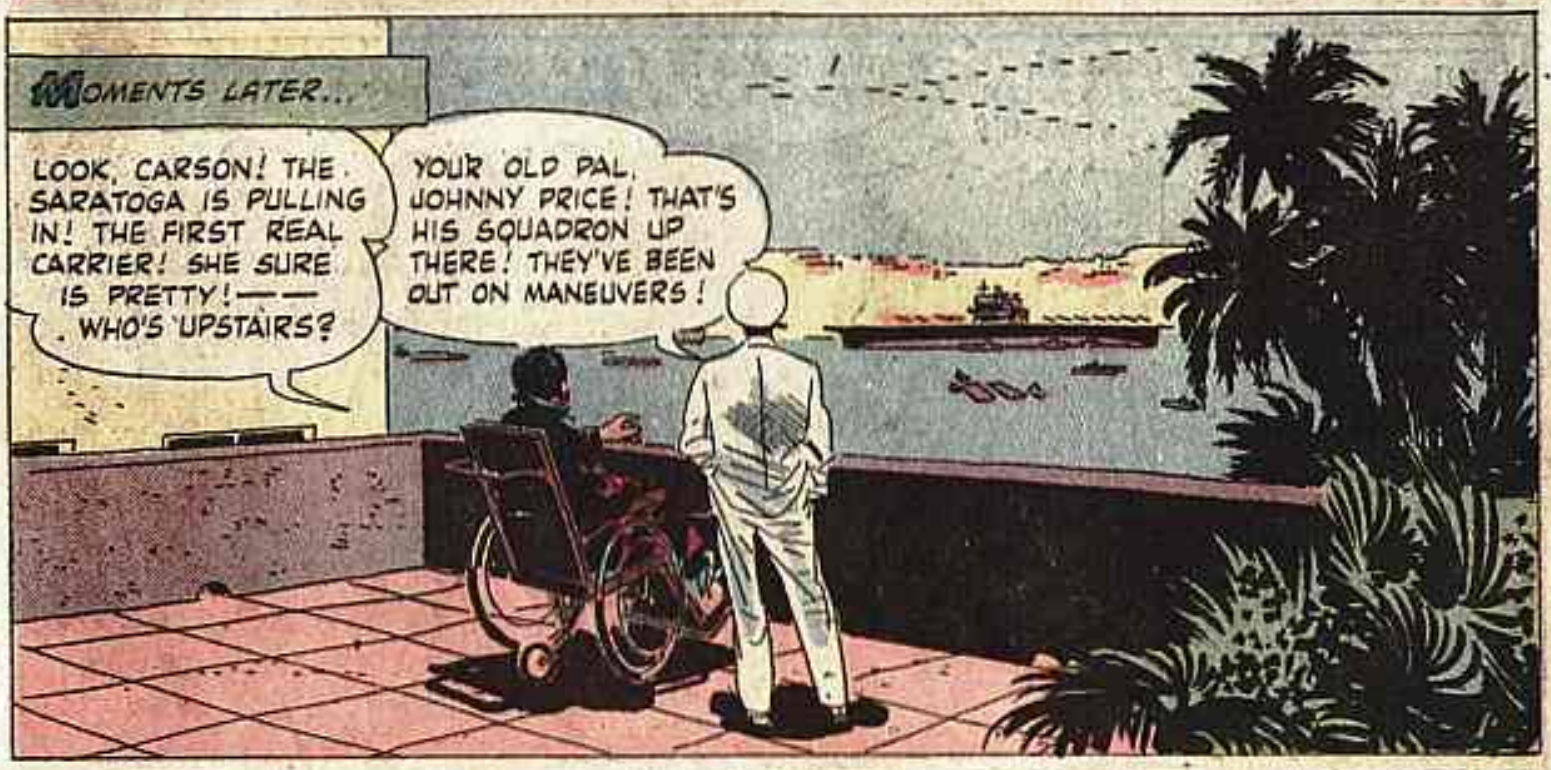
DO YOU KNOW THE FIX YOU'RE IN?
NO! DO YOU?

YUP! YOU BUSTED YOUR SPINAL CORD! THE DOCS'LL TELL YOU IT CAN'T BE SPLICED SO YOU CAN MOVE AGAIN! BUT I TELL YOU IT CAN! — — NOW LET'S GET TO WORK!

THE MONTHS PASS. LONG MONTHS OF PATIENCE AND SHEER COURAGE. FINALLY...
NOW I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES, SPIG! I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D EVER MOVE AGAIN! AND WHAT'S MORE, I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN WRITING... LOVE STORIES!
I'VE BEEN WRITING THEM ALL RIGHT, DOC! — BUT NOT SELLING THEM! I HAVEN'T SOLD EVEN ONE!

TELL ME SOMETHING, DOC! ARE YOU STILL GOING TO RETIRE ME FROM THE NAVY?
I'M AFRAID SO, SPIG!

HEY, SPIG! DON'T LOOK SO SOUR! LOOK WHAT'S HERE—WHEELS FOR LEGS! WANT TO BOARD HER?
LET'S GO!
19


MOMENTS LATER...
LOOK, CARSON! THE SARATOGA IS PULLING IN! THE FIRST REAL CARRIER! SHE SURE IS PRETTY!—— WHO'S UPSTAIRS?
YOUR OLD PAL, JOHNNY PRICE! THAT'S HIS SQUADRON UP THERE! THEY'VE BEEN OUT ON MANEUVERS!

TAKE ME BACK IN, CARSON!
SURE, SPIG! I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL! I WISH YOU WERE UPSTAIRS, TOO!

WANT ME TO GET YOUR WRITIN' TOOLS?
YES! BUT I'M NOT WRITING ANY MORE LOVE STORIES! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE ABOUT LOVE! THAT'S WHY I HAVEN'T WRITTEN ANYTHING GOOD!
19

PUSH ME OVER TO THE WINDOW, CARSON!

THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO WRITE ABOUT! THE THINGS I KNOW!...PLANES, SHIPS, WARS, FIGHTS!

MORE TIME PASSES...AND THEN, SPIG TAKES HIS FIRST STEPS...
COME ON, SPIG! YOU CAN MAKE IT!
THIS IS MORE THAN A MIRACLE! SPIG WEAD'S A PHENOMENON!

A LITTLE LATER...
JOHNNY!
I SAW YOU TAKE THAT WALK DOWN TO THE CORNER! I WISH I'D BET MONEY YOU'D WALK AGAIN, SPIG! I'D BE ROLLING IN DOUGH!

LOOK DOWN THERE, SPIG! THERE'S THE SARATOGA! YOU HELPED US GET HER! NOW TRAVIS WANTS YOU TO HELP AGAIN! WE NEED A DOZEN MORE LIKE HER!
WHAT CAN I DO?

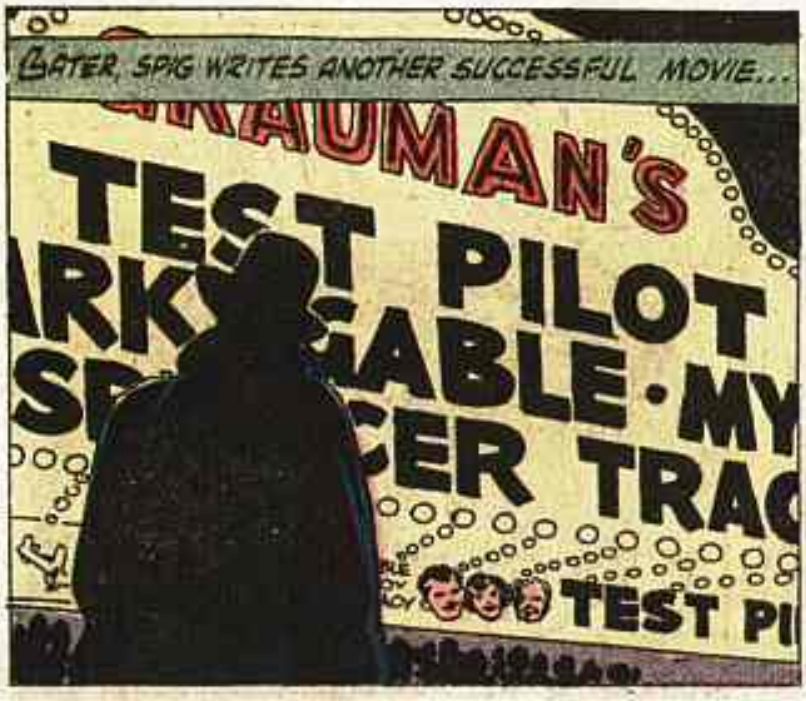
A HOLLYWOOD STUDIO WANTS TO MAKE A MOVIE ABOUT CARRIERS! A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL SEE IT! IT WILL HELP US WITH THE MONEY-MEN IN CONGRESS

I TOLD THE MAN FROM HOLLYWOOD ABOUT YOU! HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WRITING THE STORY!
ME!? I'M NOT A WRITER! I HAVEN'T SOLD EVEN ONE STORY!

SUDDENLY...
SPIG! LOOK! A CHECK FOR A HUNDRED DOLLARS! THE MAGAZINE BOUGHT YOUR STORY!
WELL, JOHNNY! NOW I AM A WRITER!
19

NOW WILL YOU TALK TO THE HOLLYWOOD MAN, SPIG?
I SURE WILL, JOHNNY!
19

AND SEVERAL MONTHS LATER...
YOU WROTE A GREAT STORY FOR A GREAT MOVIE, SPIG! IT'LL DO A LOT TO HELP US GET MORE CARRIERS! EVERYBODY LIKES IT!
I GUESS THIS PROVES WHAT THE MAN FROM HOLLYWOOD SAID... WHEN YOU WRITE ABOUT WHAT YOU LOVE, PEOPLE ARE APT TO LOVE WHAT YOU WRITE!
'HELL DIVERS'
WALLACE BEERY
ARK GABLE

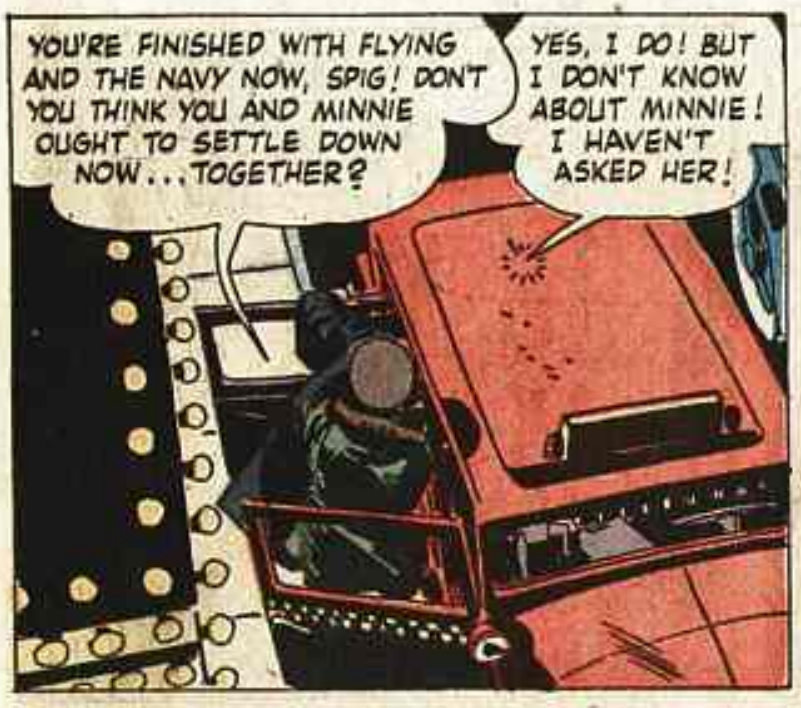

LATER, SPIG WRITES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MOVIE...
TEST PILOT

AND THEN SPIG TRIES HIS HAND AT A BROADWAY PLAY—A SUCCESSFUL PLAY...
SOLD OUT
BOX OFFICE
"CEILING ZERO"
A NEW PLAY by
FRANK WEAD
FAMOUS AUTHOR
of "HELL DIVERS" and "TEST PILOT"

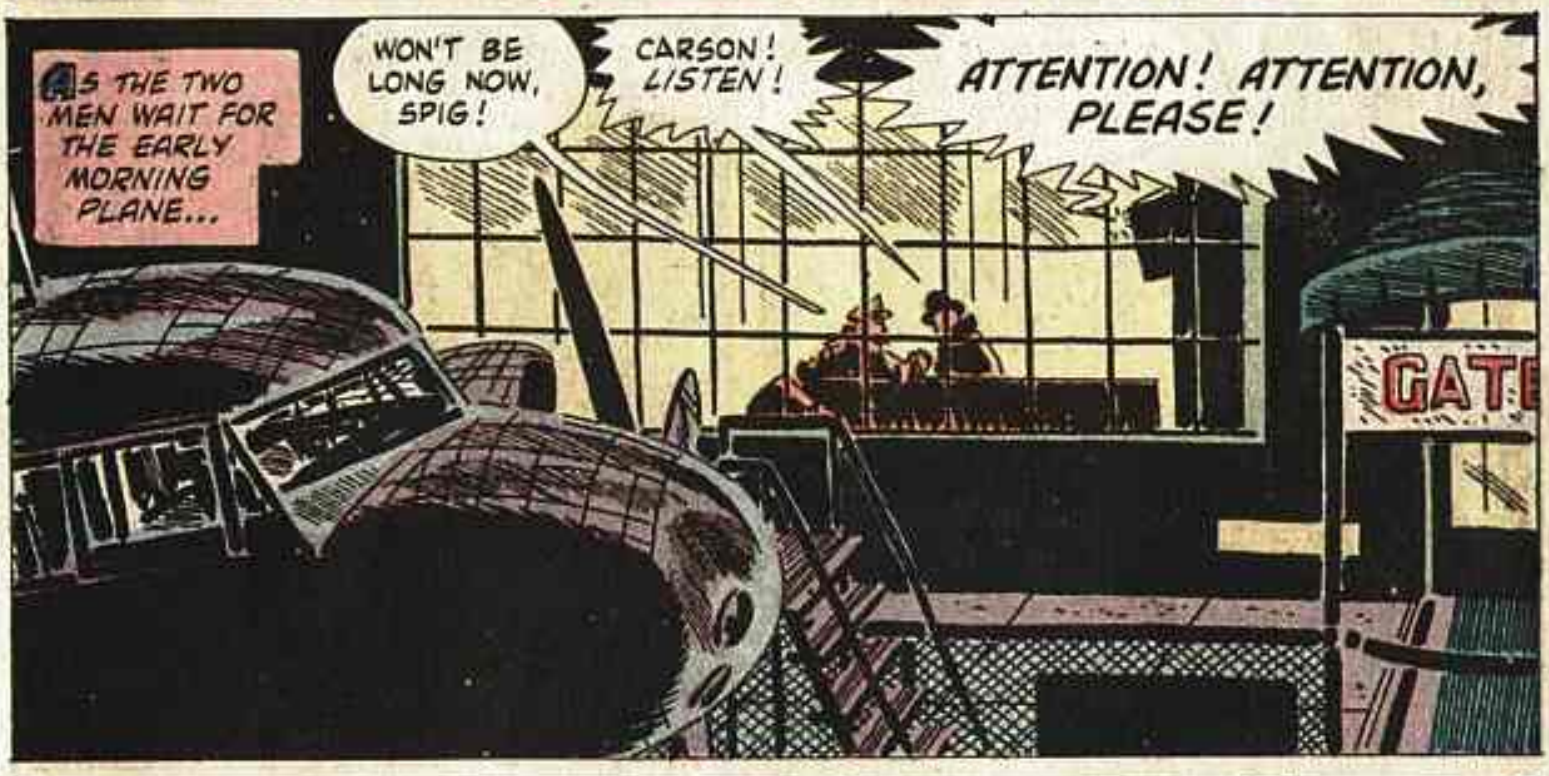
HEY, SAILOR! I'VE BEEN WAITIN' FOR YOU! I HEARD YOU WERE HERE IN NEW YORK!
CARSON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? LAST TIME I HEARD FROM YOU, YOU WERE RETIRED FROM THE NAVY AND RUNNING A CHICKEN RANCH!

I QUIT! CHICKENS GET UP TOO EARLY!—LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE REALLY A BIG WRITER NOW! RICH AND HAPPY!
AS HAPPY AS I CAN EVER BE ON THE GROUND... AND ALONE!

IS MINNIE STILL OUT WEST?
YES! SHE'S LIVING IN SAN FRANCISCO, AND DOING FINE! SHE'S ALONE, TOO!


YOU'RE FINISHED WITH FLYING AND THE NAVY NOW, SPIG! DON'T YOU THINK YOU AND MINNIE OUGHT TO SETTLE DOWN NOW...TOGETHER?
YES, I DO! BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT MINNIE! I HAVEN'T ASKED HER!

HEY! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TO THE AIRPORT! YOU CAN CATCH THE EARLY MORNING PLANE FOR SAN FRANCISCO! YOU AND MINNIE CAN BE TOGETHER FOR CHRISTMAS!
1331


AS THE TWO MEN WAIT FOR THE EARLY MORNING PLANE...
WON'T BE LONG NOW, SPIG!
CARSON! LISTEN!
ATTENTION! ATTENTION, PLEASE!
GATE

ATTENTION, EVERYBODY! NEWS BULLETIN! THIS MORNING THE JAPANESE ATTACKED PEARL HARBOR!
TRASH

WAR!! I CAN'T GO TO CALIFORNIA! I HAVE TO GO TO WASHINGTON! MAYBE THE NAVY WON'T WANT ME, BUT I HAVE TO TRY!
SURE, SPIG! YOU HAVE TO TRY! SO DO I!
1331

THE NEXT DAY, IN THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF ADMIRAL TRAVIS...
ARE YOU ASKING FOR ACTIVE DUTY, SPIG?
YES, SIR! I'VE NEVER BEEN UNDER FIRE! YOU KNOW THAT, SIR!

WE'RE OLD FRIENDS, SPIG! LET'S TALK SENSE! A WAR IS FOUGHT AT A DESK AS WELL AS AT SEA! WE NEED YOU FOR THAT KIND OF DUTY!
ADM. R.T. TRAVIS

THIS DESK IS A FLAT-TOP, TOO! IF YOU WANT IT, YOU CAN HAVE IT!

IF THAT'S ALL YOU'VE GOT FOR ME, ADMIRAL -- I'LL TRY IT ON FOR SIZE!

SO SPIG RETURNS TO THE NAVY, AT A DESK IN THE PLANS DIVISION...
THERE GOES THE HORNET! NOW WE'VE GOT ONLY ONE BIG CARRIER LEFT!
THERE ARE MORE ON THE WAY!
EXIT
SP

THAT WON'T SOLVE IT! -- LOOK! EVERY BATTLE WE FIGHT, THE LIMITING FACTOR IS WHAT? CREWS AND PLANES...JUST BECAUSE THE BIG CARRIERS CAN'T CARRY ENOUGH!

...AT CORAL SEA, MIDWAY, GUADALCANAL, THE SAME THING! THE BATTLES DEPEND ON THE CARRIERS!

THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO GET REPLACEMENT CREWS AND PLANES TO THE CARRIERS, SO THEY CAN STAY IN ACTION! I'VE GOT TO FIND THAT WAY!

THE IDEA'S RIGHT IN MY HEAD SOMEWHERE... LIKE A NAME YOU CAN'T REMEMBER!
WHY DON'T YOU SLEEP ON IT, SPIG? YOU'RE SO TIRED NOW, YOU'RE ROCKING ON YOUR HEELS!
PROJECTION ROOM
ROOM 5
ENEMY AIRCRAFT RECO-BRIEF

BUT SPIG GOES WEARILY BACK TO THE OFFICE, DETERMINED TO FIND THE ANSWER...
IT'S GOT TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE!

SUDDENLY THE DOOR OPENS...
HEY, SPIG!

JOHNNY! JOHNNY PRICE! SO THEY MADE YOU AN ADMIRAL! CONGRATULATIONS!
THANKS, SPIG! -- LOOK, I'VE ONLY GOT THREE HOURS BEFORE I SHIP OUT! LET'S PAINT THE TOWN! I'VE GOT A JEEP WAITING OUTSIDE!

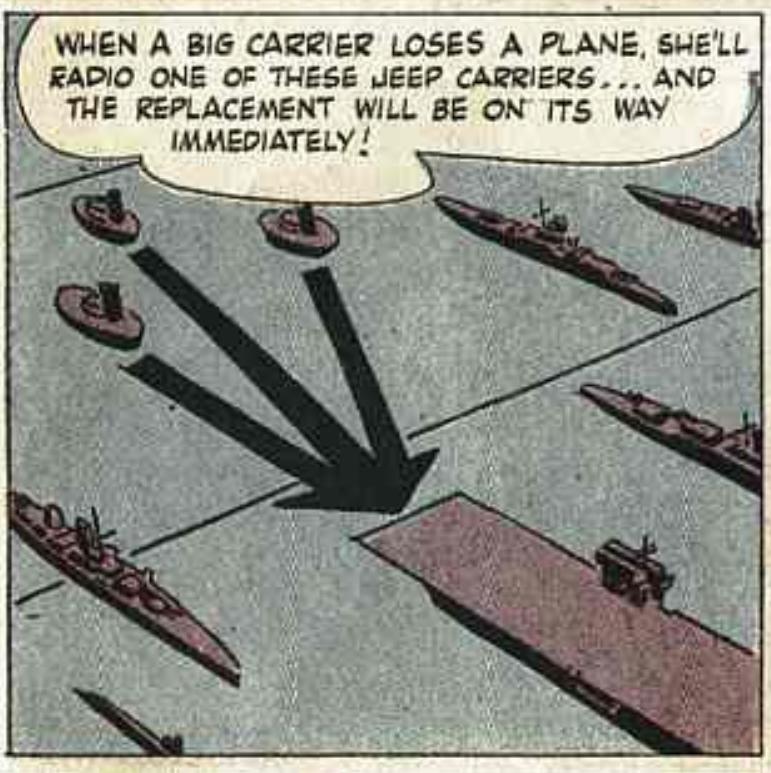
JEEP!? DID YOU SAY JEEP?
YES...BUT SO WHAT?

SO PLENTY! THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE ANSWER! -- JOHNNY! HAND ME THAT LIBERTY SHIP OVER THERE!

LOOK! WE CAN TAKE LIBERTY SHIP HULLS, TOP 'EM WITH FLIGHT DECKS, AND ADD BALLAST AND STABILIZING FINS! AND WHAT HAVE WE GOT?... JEEP CARRIERS!

SEEING SPIG SWEPT UP IN A NEW IDEA, JOHNNY PRICE LEAVES -- UNNOTICED BY SPIG...
NOW IF I CAN JUST FIGURE OUT THE REST OF THIS AND SHOW IT TO ADMIRAL CROWN!

THE NEXT MORNING, FLEET ADMIRAL CROWN APPEARS TO CONSIDER SPIG'S PLAN...
...IN AN ATTACK, THE BIG COMBAT CARRIERS WILL FORM THE SPEARPOINT! BUT NOW, BACKING UP THE BIG CARRIERS, LOADED WITH PLANES AND CREWS!...


WHEN A BIG CARRIER LOSES A PLANE, SHE'LL RADIO ONE OF THESE JEEP CARRIERS... AND THE REPLACEMENT WILL BE ON ITS WAY IMMEDIATELY!

THIS WAY, THE BIG CARRIER CAN STAY IN ACTION! THE JEEP CARRIER PLAN WILL SAVE TIME--DISTANCE--STRIKING POWER!

I LIKE IT, WEAD! GET IT ON PAPER!

HE LIKED IT!--BOYS! CUT ME SOME ORDERS! I MAY GET TO GO INTO ACTION WITH THIS PLAN!

SPIG DOES GET TO GO WITH THE PLAN, AND SHORTLY, AT PEARL HARBOR...

WELCOME HOME, SAILOR!

JOCK CLARK! SO YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN OF THIS FLAT-TOP!... THIS IS A LONG WAY FROM THE OLD LANGLEY!

IT SURE IS! COME ON!-- LET'S GO TOPSIDE! I'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU!

THE TWO MEN TAKE THE ELEVATOR UP TO THE FLIGHT DECK...

YOU GOT HERE JUST IN TIME, SPIG! WE'RE JUST ABOUT READY TO CAST OFF!

THAT'S FINE WITH ME!

AND TOPSIDE...

CARSON! HOW DID YOU WANGLE THIS?!

SAME AS YOU... PULL! --HEY! YOU LOOK A LITTLE BEAT-UP! BEEN LIVING OFF THE FAT OF THE LAND?

GUESS IT SHOWS UP AT SEA, DOESN'T IT?

WELL, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! I'LL MAKE A MAN OUT OF YOU AGAIN!

AND THEN--THE BATTLE OF KWAJALEIN!...

AND ON THE CARRIER...
RED SECTION PICKED UP A TON OF FLAK OVER THE ISLAND! THEY'RE COMING BACK WITH TWO PLANES BADLY DAMAGED! PILOTS UNINJURED!
CAN THEY LAND ON DECK?

ONE THINKS HE CAN! THE OTHER CAN'T!
TELL THE ONE TO LAND, THE OTHER TO DITCH CLOSE! WE'LL PICK HIM UP OUT OF THE WATER!

DOVECOTE TO WAYWARD! BRING YOUR WALLFLOWERS HOME — ONE WET — ONE DRY... AND WE'LL GET YOU ANOTHER DATE!

NOW CALL THE JEEP CARRIER! TWO REPLACEMENTS SHOULD BE HERE IN TWELVE MINUTES!
DOVECOTE TO MAIL ORDER! WE'LL TAKE TWO BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS RUSH!

MILES AWAY FROM KWAJALEIN, THE JEEP CARRIER, "MAIL ORDER," SENDS OFF TWO PLANES TO REPLACE THE ONES LOST IN ACTION. SPIG'S PLAN IS WORKING!...

MEANWHILE, AT KWAJALEIN, ONE WALLFLOWER CRASHES INTO THE WATER, NEAR THE CARRIER...

THE PILOT CRAWLS OUT OF THE WRECKAGE OF HIS PLANE...

AND DIVES INTO THE WATER, TO SWIM TO THE HAVEN OF THE CARRIER...

SPIG AND THE OFFICER HEAR THE VOICE OF THE REPLACEMENT PLANE'S PILOT...
CHRISTMAS RUSH TO DOVECOTE! WHERE DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESENT?
UNDER THE TREE! THE KIDS ARE WAITING!

AND MINUTES LATER, THE FIRST REPLACEMENT PLANE ARRIVES...
SHE MADE IT IN TWELVE MINUTES AND TWENTY SECONDS! THEY CAN STILL DO BETTER!
IF WE'D HAD YOUR PLAN AT TARAWA, SPIG, WE COULD HAVE SAVED A LOT OF CASUALTIES! AND WITH IT, WE'LL SAVE PLENTY FROM HERE TO TOKYO -- A GOOD JOB, SPIG!

AND LISTEN TO THIS -- IT'S A MESSAGE FROM TASK FORCE COMMANDER TO ALL HANDS! "FORMAL RESISTANCE HAS COLLAPSED! KWAJALEIN IS OURS! YOUR COMMANDER SIGNALS EACH OF YOU: 'WELL DONE!'"

THAT MEANS A CLEAR PATH TO THE MARIANAS!
AND FOR YOU A CLEAR PATH TO BED, SPIG! THAT'S AN ORDER!

A FEW MINUTES AFTER CAPTAIN CLARK LEAVES THE BRIDGE, A JAPANESE PLANE ROARS DOWN ON THE CARRIER IN A SUICIDE RUN... ITS GUNS BLAZING...
SPIG!! WAIT! I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND!

BUT AS CARSON RUNS TO HELP SPIG...
CARSON!! YOU'RE HIT!!

DON'T WORRY, SPIG! IT'S ONLY MY SHOULDER!

CAUGHT IN THE CARRIER'S ANTIAIRCRAFT FIRE, THE JAPANESE SUICIDE PLANE CRASHES INTO THE SEA...

LATER, IN THE CARRIER'S HOSPITAL WARD...
I HAD TO GET INTO ACTION, SO I ALMOST GOT YOU KILLED!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! YOU DID ME A FAVOR! I GET A WHOLE MONTH AT WAIKIKI -- SURF, SAND, SUN...

BUT AS SPIG LEAVES, HE COLLAPSES WEAKLY AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE DOOR...
OOOH! CARSON!

AND LATER, IN THE CARRIER'S SICK BAY...
HERE'S YOUR ELECTRO-CARDIOGRAM, SPIG! YOUR HEART'S NOT GOOD!

THAT MEANS I'M ALL THROUGH IN THE NAVY, DOESN'T IT?
I'M AFRAID IT DOES, SPIG! -- YOU'VE EARNED A REST!

DO ME A FAVOR, DOC! DON'T TELL ANYBODY ABOUT THIS! A LOT OF PEOPLE HELPED ME GET OUT HERE! I DON'T WANT THEM TO BLAME THEMSELVES!

SO, A FEW DAYS LATER, AT SEA, SPIG WEAD RETIRES AND IS PIPED OVER THE SIDE, WITH HIS OLD FRIENDS GATHERED TOGETHER AS AN HONOR GUARD...

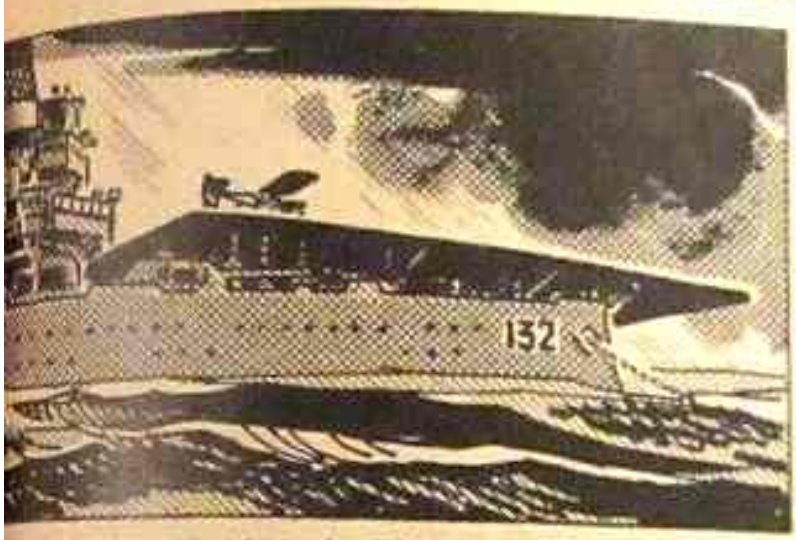
A PLEDGE DELL COMIC TO PARENTS

The Dell Trademark is, and always has been, a positive guarantee that the comic magazine bearing it contains only clean and wholesome entertainment. The Dell code eliminates entirely, rather than regulates, objectionable material. That's why when your child buys a Dell Comic you can be sure it contains only good fun. "DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS" *is our only credo and constant goal.*

Naval Aviation Firsts

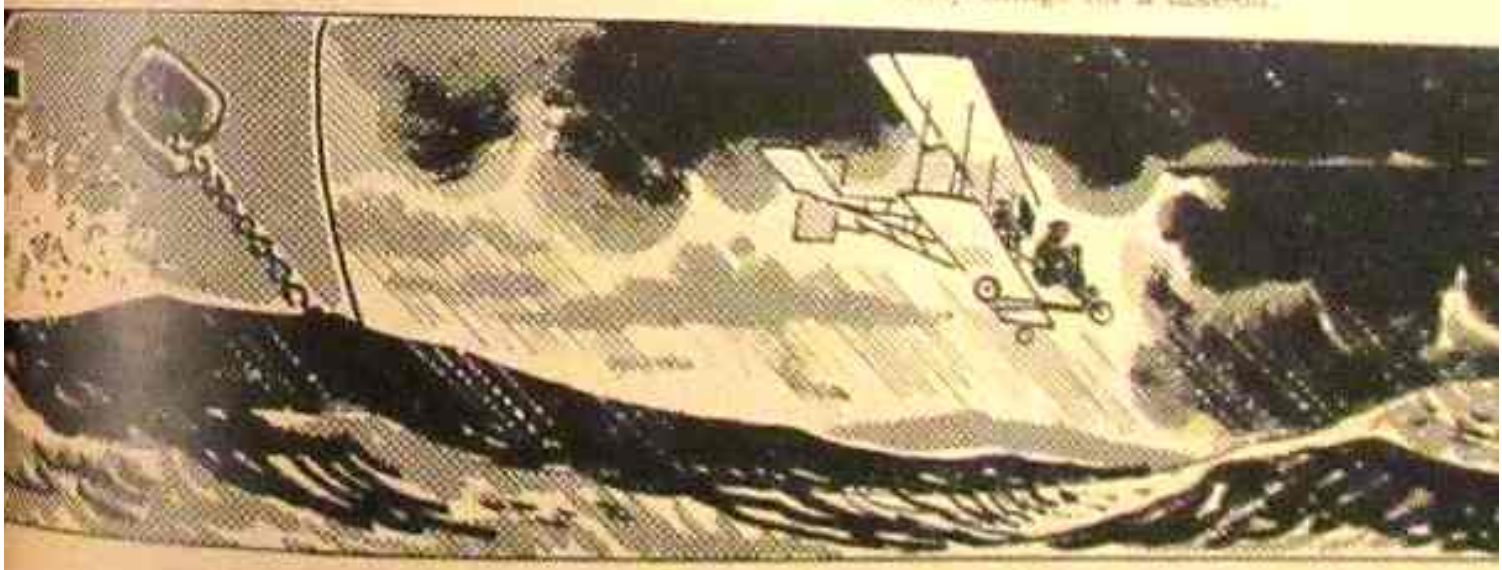
The first aircraft take-off from the deck of a ship

At Newport News, Va., [illegible] the cruiser Birmingham [illegible] on its bow. It was part of an experiment [illegible] Ely was [illegible] pilot, [illegible]



On Nov. 13, 1910, the Birmingham steamed out to an anchorage in Hampton Roads, bearing a little Curtiss biplane manned by Ely. The day was bad for flight, dark and rainy.

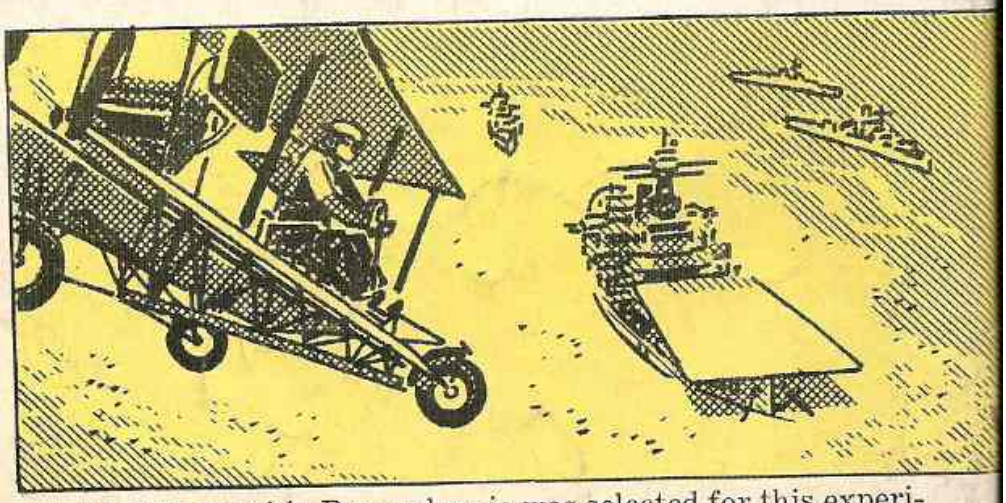
Admirals, staff officers, reporters, and Ely's nervous wife officiated. In spite of approaching fog, Ely gave the signal to ready things for a take-off.



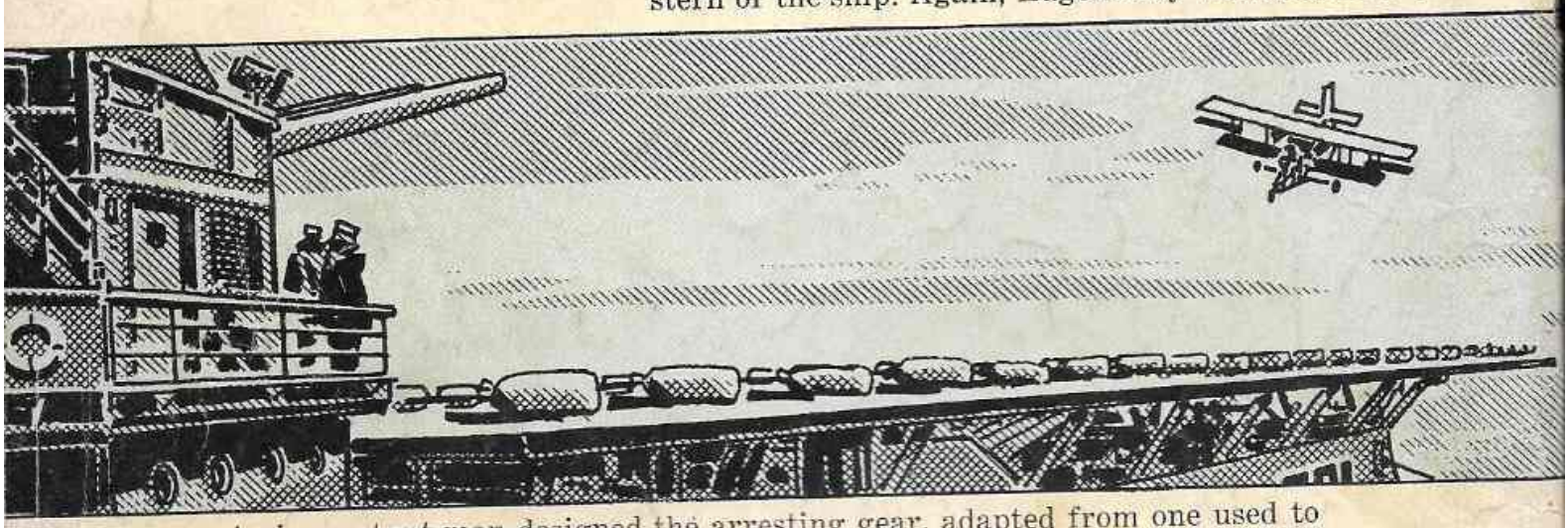
With all sixty horses revving, the little biplane shot down the sloping boards and fell, rather than flew, off the bow. Its wheels barely missed the wave tops as it skittered over the water, then slowly lifted and disappeared swiftly into the mists. This was the first step toward getting the Navy into the air.

Naval Aviation Firsts

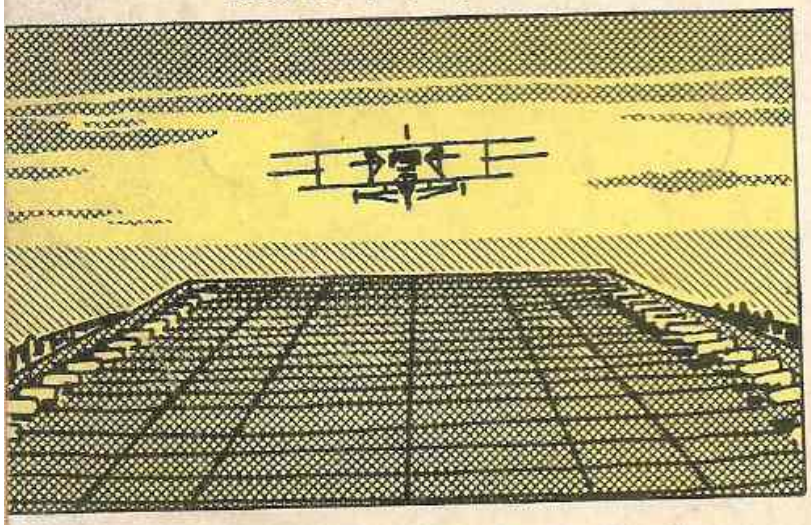
The first aircraft landing on the deck of a ship



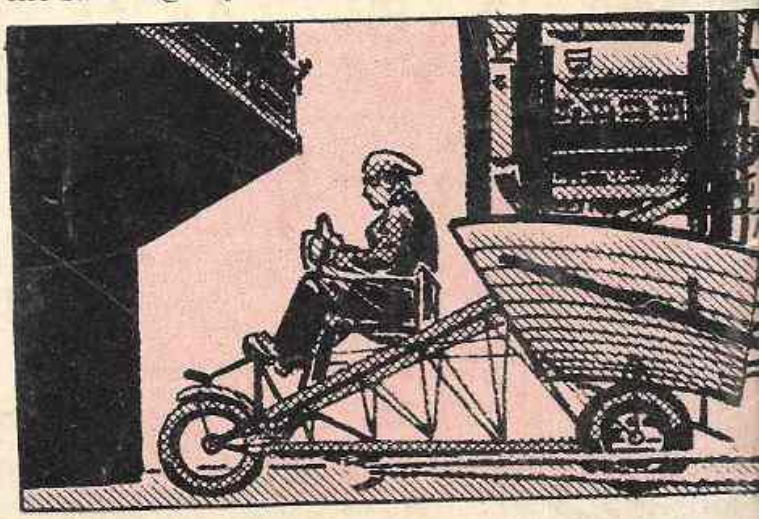
The big warship Pennsylvania was selected for this experiment. A platform, 120 feet long from the sharply sloping overhang to the base of the aft turret, was built on the stern of the ship. Again, Eugene Ely was chosen as pilot.



A circus stunt man designed the arresting gear, adapted from one used to stop his automobile after a loop-the-loop act. 21 ropes were stretched across the landing platform and raised a few inches off the deck. At each end of the ropes were 50-pound sandbags. This is almost the same as arresting gear used today. (Ropes are now steel cables, the sandbags hydraulic cylinders.)



Ely's plane was fitted with three landing hooks to snag the ropes. This was indeed a dangerous venture, for Ely had never even seen the arresting gear!



Upon landing, a gust caught the little plane! It missed the first ten ropes, caught the eleventh, and stopped barely two feet from a steel gun platform!